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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Nichols gold medal of the American Chemical Society for the year 1909–10 has been awarded to Professor M. A. Rosanoff, of Clark University, and his pupil, Mr. C. W. Easley, for their joint study of the partial vapor pressures of binary mixtures. The formal award will take place at the meeting of the New York Section on January 6, 1911.

DR. ADOLF VON BAEYER, of Munich, has celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday.

THE Bolyai prize of 10,000 Kronen of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Dr. David Hilbert, of the University of Göttingen.

PROFESSOR F. W. WOLL, chemist of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, was elected president of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists of America at the recent annual meeting in Washington, D. C.

THE Earl of Stair has been elected president of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in succession to Professor James Geikie, F.R.S., who has held the office of president for the last six years. The anniversary meeting of the society was held on November 11, and was addressed by Sir John Murray on "The Deep Sea."

DR. OTTO HÖNIGSCHMID, of Prague, who last winter carried out at Harvard University an exact revision of the atomic weight of calcium under the direction of Professor T. W. Richards, has now begun a study of the atomic weight of radium at the new Radium Institute in Vienna.

THE council and fellows of the Chemical Society, London, honored five of their past-presidents who had completed their jubilee as

fellows by entertaining them at a banquet at the Savoy Hotel on Friday, November 11. We learn from *Nature* that a large gathering, numbering 250, including the presidents of the French and German Chemical Societies and eleven past-presidents, was presided over by Professor Harold B. Dixon, F.R.S., the president. The names of the past-presidents who were being honored were:

	Elected	President
Professor William Odling, F.R.S.	1848	1873–5
The Rt. Hon. Sir Henry E. Roscoe, F.R.S.	1855	1880–2
Sir William Crookes, O.M., F.R.S.	1857	1887–9
Dr. Hugo Müller, F.R.S.	1859	1885–7
Dr. A. G. Vernon Harcourt, F.R.S.	1859	1895–7

The president referred to the personalities of the jubilee past-presidents, and to the particular work in which each was more especially distinguished: Sir Henry Roscoe, for his research on vanadium and as a pioneer educationist; Sir William Crookes, for his discovery of thallium, his researches on the rare earths, the genesis of matter and diamonds, and his brilliant discoveries in physics; Dr. Hugo Müller, for his researches on cellulose and discoveries in connection with printing; Dr. Vernon Harcourt, for his researches on the rate of chemical change and his work as an enthusiastic teacher; and Professor William Odling, the doyen of chemistry, to whom all chemists will find it difficult to fathom their debt of gratitude. Unfortunately, Sir Henry Roscoe was absent through illness, and his address was read by the president. Addresses were made by the other past-presidents.

MME. CURIE is a candidate for the *fauteuil* at the Academy of Sciences, rendered vacant by the death of M. Gernez.

AT the quarterly meeting of the board of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History held on November 14 the following changes were made in the scientific staff: Dr. Louis Hussakof was appointed associate curator of fossil fishes; Mr. John T. Nichols, assistant curator of recent fishes, and Dr. William K. Gregory, assistant in the department of vertebrate paleontology.

MR. O. W. BARRETT, until recently director of the Department of Agriculture of Mozambique, has accepted the position of chief of division of experiment stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Manila. He has already reached his new post.

MR. BARNUM BROWN, of the department of vertebrate paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History, has recently returned from an expedition to Montana which completes the work on the Laramie formation begun in 1902 and carried on continuously since that time except during the year 1907. The most important specimen obtained was an unusually complete skeleton of *Trachodon*.

PROFESSOR HERSCHEL C. PARKER, of the department of physics of Columbia University, accompanied by Mr. Gilmore Brown and other members of last summer's expedition, will make a third attempt this winter to reach the summit of Mount McKinley.

ON November 11 and 12, Professor Edmund B. Wilson, of Columbia University, delivered two lectures before the University of Missouri under the auspices of the Society of the Sigma Xi. The subjects of the lectures were "Some Latter Day Aspects of Heredity and Evolution" and "Heredity and the Chromosomes."

DR. JOHN DEWEY, professor of philosophy at Columbia University, will lecture at the University of Pennsylvania, under the Harrison Foundation, on "The Problem of Truth." The subjects and dates of the lectures are as follows: December 6, "Why Truth is a Philosophical Problem"; December 8, "Correspondence, Coherence and Consequence as Marks of Truth"; December 9, "Truth as Objective." Following Dr. Dewey's lectures, Professor Josiah Royce, of Harvard University, will deliver three lectures on "Truth" on February 6, 7 and 8.

ON December 3, Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, of Yale University, lectured at the University of Pennsylvania, his subject being "The Antiquity of Man in Europe." This was the first of a series of lectures to be given by various speakers on "The History of Mankind."

DR. GEORG KERSCHENSTEINER, of Munich, Bavaria, delivered an address on the trade schools of Munich at the University of Chicago on November 14. Dr. Kerschesteiner is a member of the Royal Council of Education of Bavaria and superintendent of the public schools of Munich. He has come to America at the invitation of the Commercial Club of Chicago, which is making a study of the advantages of industrial education and which has sent Edwin G. Cooley, former superintendent of the public schools of Chicago and a graduate of the University of Chicago, to Europe to investigate trade schools.

"THE Inefficiency of Natural Selection" was the subject of Professor H. H. Lane's presidential address before the Oklahoma Academy of Science at its second annual meeting held in November. The address will probably be printed in full by the state university. Dr. D. W. Ohern was elected president of the academy at its recent meeting.

A MEMORIAL has been erected at the National Bacteriological Institute in the City of Mexico to Howard T. Ricketts, who at the time of his death was assistant professor of pathology in the University of Chicago and professor-elect of pathology in the University of Pennsylvania. His death was caused by typhus fever, which he contracted while conducting researches in this disease.

DR. CHRISTIAN ARCHIBALD HERTER, professor of pharmacology and therapeutics in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, died on December 5 at the age of forty-six years.

DR. ANGELO MOSSO, professor of physiology in the University of Turin and a member of the Italian Senate, died on November 24 at the age of sixty-four years.

THE Association of the Alumni of the College of Physicians and Surgeons offer the Cartwright prize, \$500, open to universal competition, for the best essay on any medical, surgical or kindred subject. The essays must contain the original work of the author and must be submitted on or before April 1, 1911. In the spring of 1912, the alumni prize of

the same value will be offered, open only to the alumni. These prizes are biennial and alternate annually. They are supported by funds in the hands of the Association of the Alumni and are to be given in perpetuity.

THE next meeting of the Association of American Universities will be held at the University of Chicago in November, 1911.

THE officers of Section D of the American Association have sent a notice to the members and others interested stating that the rapid advance in the navigation of the air during the past year has attracted serious attention to scientific aeronautics. The construction of dirigible balloons and flying machines is essentially a mechanical problem and as such merits consideration by Section D, especially since no engineering society has yet taken this action. Accordingly at the Minneapolis meeting, December 27-31, 1910, papers are invited relating to aerodynamics and other branches of aeronautics, and also discussing possible course of instruction in colleges and technical schools. Attention is also directed to the fact that some papers on the science of road building and related topics have been promised, and that others are desired to complete the program for a session of the section devoted to this subject.

THE third annual meeting of the Association of Official Seed Analysts was held at the Shoreham, Washington, D. C., on November 14 and 15. The following papers were presented:

Some Germination Studies of Seeds of Forage Plants—Dr. L. H. Pammel, Miss Charlotte M. King and Mr. H. S. Coe.

Germination Studies of the Seeds of the Umbelliferae—Mr. Geo. T. Harrington.

Agricultural Value of Hard Seeds in Alfalfa and Clover—Professor H. L. Bolley.

Notes on the Morphology of Hard Seeds—Mr. Geo. T. Harrington.

The Essentials of Agricultural Seed Analysis—Mr. F. H. Hillman.

Seed Conditions in Indiana—Professor G. I. Christie.

At the business session a constitution was adopted and the following officers were elected:

*President*—Dr. E. H. Jenkins, of Connecticut.

*Vice-president*—Dr. L. H. Pammel, of Iowa.

*Secretary*—Mr. E. Brown, of Washington, D. C.

*Additional members of the Executive Committee*

—Professor H. L. Bolley, of North Dakota, and Professor W. H. Barre, of South Carolina.

The president appointed the following committee and referees:

*Committee on Seed Legislation*—Dr. C. D. Woods, of Maine, chairman, and Dr. L. H. Pammel, of Iowa.

*Referees*: Sampling—Dr. C. D. Woods, of Maine. Purity—Professor H. Garman, of Kentucky. Germination—Mr. E. Brown, of Washington, D. C.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

TRINITY COLLEGE, in Durham, N. C., will receive from Mr. Benjamin N. Duke, four new buildings which are designed to form a quadrangle on the campus. The Duke family has now given the institution almost a million and a half dollars.

CONCRETE foundations for the new horticultural building at the University of Wisconsin, which is to cost \$60,000, are completed, and the work on the structure will be pushed as rapidly as weather conditions will permit. The new building will comprise a basement, two floors and an attic, and will furnish offices, class rooms and laboratories for the horticultural and plant pathology departments. It is to be a fire-proof structure of brick, trimmed in stone, with a tile roof.

THE collections of the chemical department of the University of Wisconsin, which have been recently brought together to form a museum in the corridors of the chemistry building, now include thirteen different departments of chemistry and its related branches.

THE officers of the department of physics of the University of Illinois gave a reception on Saturday evening, November 19, to the faculty of the university and their friends in the physics building. The building was in normal working condition and the instructors and students in the department were on hand to show visitors through the building and to explain apparatus and methods. The guest of honor was Professor Albert A. Michelson, of